IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended): An apparatus for reading data, comprising:

a magnetic tape media contact surface configured to contact a magnetic tape media; and

a reduced sensitivity spin valve sensor, wherein the reduced sensitivity spin valve sensor senses an applied magnetic field from the magnetic tape media when the magnetic tape media passes by the reduced sensitivity spin valve sensor, wherein the reduced sensitivity spin valve sensor has a sensitivity less than magnetic disk head spin valve sensors, [[and]] wherein the reduced sensitivity spin valve sensor has a sensitivity that is reduced from a sensitivity of the magnetic disk head spin valve sensor by increasing an effective anisotropy field of a free layer in the reduced sensitivity spin valve sensor, and wherein the effective anisotropy field of the reduced sensitivity spin valve sensor is increased by increasing a stiffness of a sensing region of the free layer.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the effective anisotropy field of the reduced sensitivity spin valve sensor is increased by increasing a stiffness of [[a]] the entire length of the free layer of the reduced sensitivity spin valve sensor.

6. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim [[5]] 1, wherein the stiffness of the free layer is increased by using at least one permanent magnet stabilizing element to impart a stiffening magnetic field to the sensing region of the free layer.

7. (Original): The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the at least one permanent magnet stabilizing element is a cobalt-platinum-chromium magnet.

8. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim [[5]] 1, wherein the stiffness of the sensing region of the free layer is increased by using an antiferromagnet to impart a stiffening magnetic field to the sensing region of the free layer.

9. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of claim [[5]] 1, wherein the stiffness of the sensing region of the free layer is increased by using both an antiferromagnet and at least one permanent magnet stabilizing element to impart a stiffening exchange magnetic field to the sensing region of the free layer.

10-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended): A method of using a spin valve sensor to read data from a magnetic tape media, comprising:
passing a magnetic tape media before a magnetic tape media head; an
a sensitivity that is reduced by increasing an effective anisotropy field, and wherein the effective anisotropy field of the reduced sensitivity spin valve sensor is increased by increasing a stiffness of a sensing region of the free layer.

18-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 17, wherein the anisotropy field is increased by increasing a stiffness of [[a]] the entire length of the free layer of the spin valve sensor.

22. (Currently Amended): The method of claim [[21]] 17, wherein the stiffness of the sensing region of the free layer is increased by using at least one permanent magnet stabilizing element to impart a stiffening magnetic field to the sensing region of the free layer.

23. (Original): The method of claim 22, wherein the at least one permanent magnet stabilizing element is a cobalt-platinum-chromium magnet.

24. (Currently Amended): The method of claim [[21]] 17, wherein the stiffness of the sensing region of the free layer is increased by using an antiferromagnet to impart a stiffening magnetic field to the sensing region of the free layer.

25. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 21, wherein the stiffness of the sensing region of the free layer is increased by using both an antiferromagnet and at least one permanent magnet stabilizing element to impart a stiffening exchange magnetic field to the sensing region of the free layer.

26-32. (Canceled)

33. (New): The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the stiffness of the sensing region of the free layer is increased by using an antiferromagnet to impart a stiffening magnetic field to the entire length of the free layer.

34. (New): The method of claim 17, wherein the stiffness of the sensing region of the free layer is increased by using an antiferromagnet to impart a stiffening magnetic field to the entire length of the free layer.